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310 East 67th Street, New York, NY 10021-6295 (US). (72) Inventors: ELLIS, Nathan; 256 West 10th Street, New York, NY 10014 (US). GERMAN, James; 270 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10025 (US). GRODEN, Joanna; 3513 Clarkwood Place, Cincinnati, OH 45208 (US).					
(74)	Agents: BOGOSIAN, Elizabeth, A. et al.; 90 Park New York, NY 10016 (US).	Avenu	ıe,		

(57) Abstract

The present invention provides a method for diagnosing BS as well as determining whether a subject is a carrier of a mutated BLM gene. The present invention also provides one or more single-stranded nucleic acid probes and antibodies which may be formulated in kits, and used for diagnosing BS or determining whether a subject is a carrier of a mutated BLM gene. In addition, the present invention provides a method for treating or preventing the onset of BS in a subject in need of such treatment or prevention, as well as vectors and stem cells useful for such treatment or prevention. The present invention also provides a purified and isolated nucleic acid encoding an enzymatically active BLM protein, a vector comprising this nucleic acid, a cell stably transformed with this vector, as well as a method for producing recombinant, enzymatically active BLM protein. A purified, enzymatically active BLM protein is also provided by the present invention. Finally, the present invention provides a vector, an embryonic stem cell, and a non-human, transgenic animal, each of which comprises a mutated BLM gene, as well as a method for producing the non-human, transgenic animal.